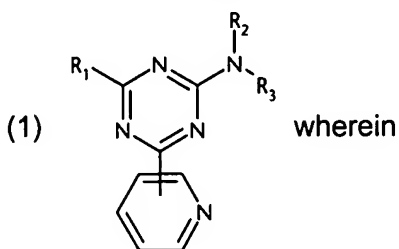


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the prior claims listing by the following listing.

1. (currently amended): A compound of formula



R₁ is ~~C₄-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; or C₄-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl~~ C₁-C₄alkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen; ~~C₄-C₂₀alkyl; or C₃-C₇cycloalkyl~~; and

R₃ is ~~hydrogen; C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkyl-carbonyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-carbonyl; or C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl~~; or phenylcarbonyl.

2. (cancelled).

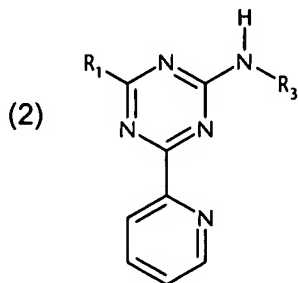
3. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~either~~ claim 1, wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₄alkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen; and

R₃ is C₂-C₆alkyl; C₁-C₁₂perfluoroalkyl; C₁-C₁₂alkyl-carbonyl; or C₁-C₁₂perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl.

4. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1, which corresponds to formula



wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₄alkyl; and

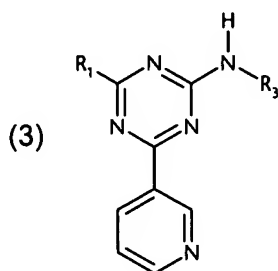
R₃ is C₆-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkyl-carbonyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-carbonyl; or C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl.

5. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4, wherein

R₁ is tert-butyl; and

R₃ is C₆-C₂₀alkyl.

6. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1, which corresponds to formula

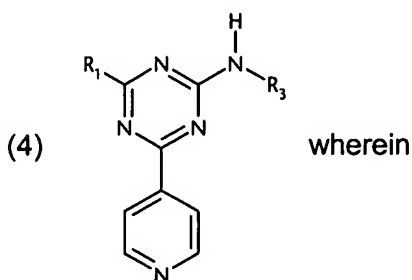


wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₄alkyl; and

R₃ is C₆-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkyl-carbonyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-carbonyl; or C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl.

7. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 1, which corresponds to formula

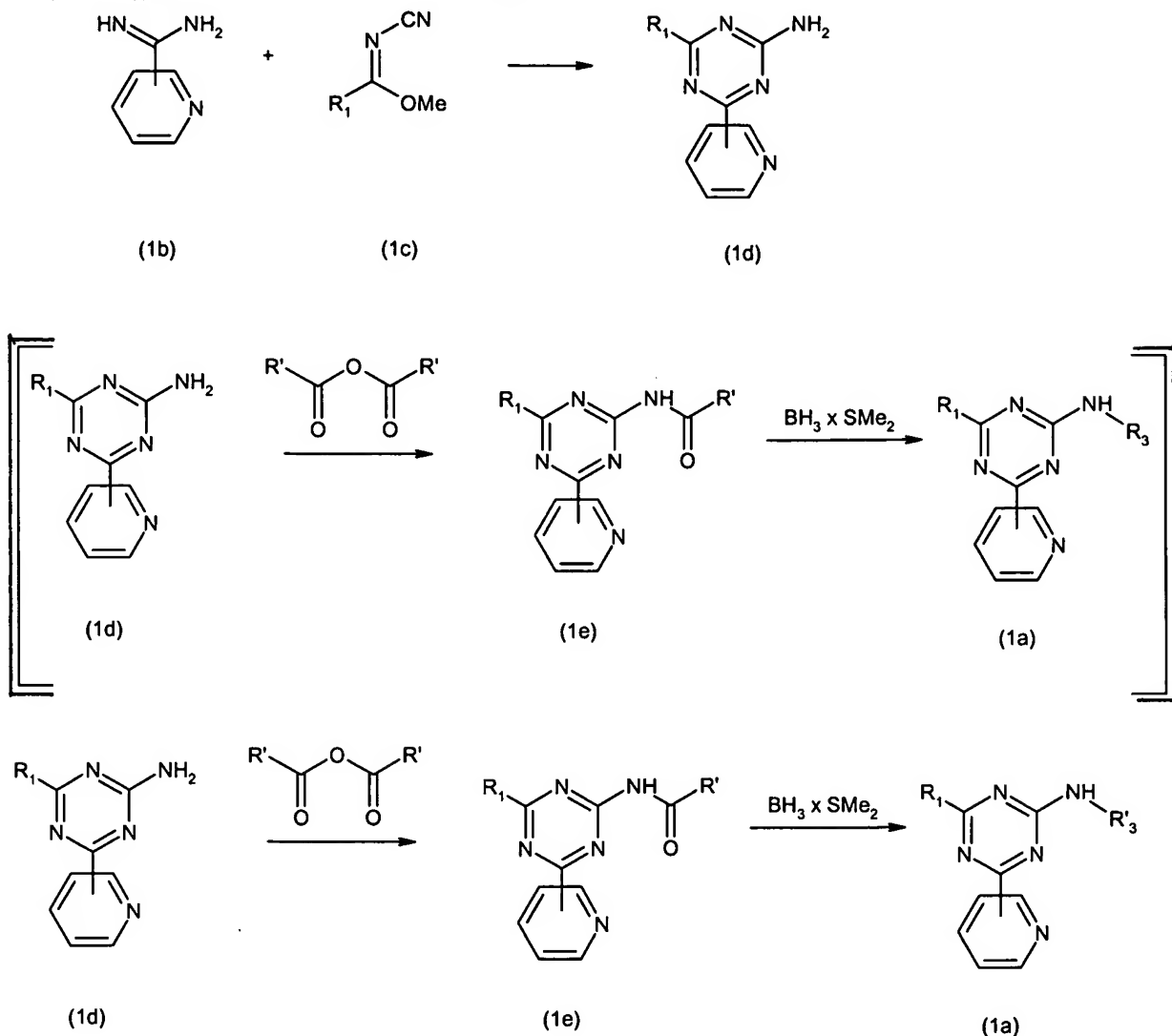


R₁ is C₁-C₄alkyl; and

R₃ is C₆-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkyl-carbonyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-carbonyl; or C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl.

8. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1e) or (1a) ~~according to claim 4~~, which comprises condensing an amidine of formula (1b) with a cyanoimide of formula (1c) to form an aminotriazine of formula (1d), acylating the latter compound, and then

optionally reducing the N-acylaminotriazine of formula (1e) obtained to form a compound of formula (1a), in accordance with the following Scheme:



wherein

R_1 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl; $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ cycloalkyl; or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ perfluoroalkyl;

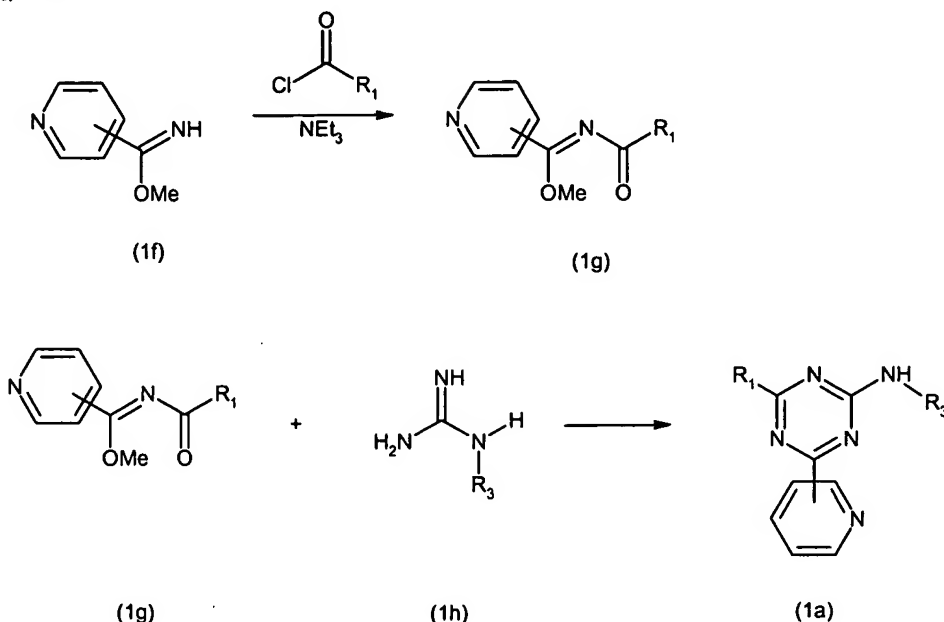
R_3 is hydrogen; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl; $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ cycloalkyl; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ perfluoroalkyl; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl-carbonyl; $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ cycloalkyl-carbonyl; $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl; or phenylcarbonyl; wherein

R'_3 is the residue of R_3 minus a CH_2 moiety; and

R' is $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{20}$ alkyl is the residue of R_3 minus a carbonyl moiety.

9. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1a) ~~according to claim 4~~, which comprises acylating a pyridylimino ester of formula (1f) and reacting the resulting

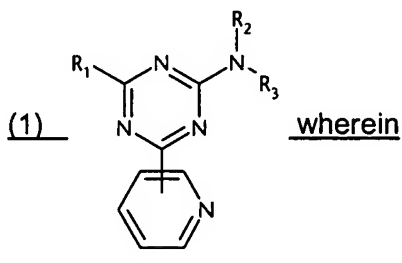
N-acyl-imino ester of formula (1f) with a mono- or di-substituted guanidine or a salt thereof in an inert solvent to form a pyridyl-triazine of formula (1a), in accordance with the following Scheme:



wherein

R₁ and R₃ are as defined in claim 1.

10. (currently amended): A method for the antimicrobial treatment of ~~surfaces~~ a surface, which comprises contacting said ~~surfaces~~ surface with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formula (1) ~~according to claim 1~~



R₁ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; or C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen; C₁-C₂₀alkyl; or C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; and

R₃ is hydrogen; C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl; C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkyl-carbonyl; C₃-C₇cycloalkyl-carbonyl; C₁-C₂₀perfluoroalkyl-carbonyl; or phenylcarbonyl.

11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the compound of formula (1) is used in the antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation and disinfection of the~~ said surface is skin, oral and other mucosa, tooth surfaces and the or hair.

12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein the antimicrobial treatment with the compound of formula (1)~~is used in~~ results in disinfection and deodorisation.

13. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~a compound of formula (1) is used in the~~ said surface is a treatment of textile fibre materials material.

14. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial treatment with a compound of formula (1)~~is used~~ results in preservation.

15. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein a compound of formula (1) is incorporated into ~~used in~~ washing and cleaning formulations.

16. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~a compound of formula (1) is used in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving,~~ said surface is plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

17. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~a compound of formula (1) is used in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving,~~ said surface is a technical products product selected from the group consisting of printing thickeners of starch or of cellulose derivatives, surface-coatings and paints.

18. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~a compound of formula (1) is used as a biocide in~~ said surface is paper-treatment.

19. (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, wherein the antimicrobial treatment with a compound of formula (1)~~is used~~ results in penetrating and removing biofilms and also in preventing the adhesion and formation of biofilms on human tooth surfaces and oral mucosa.

20. (original): A personal care preparation comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1) defined in accordance with claim 1, and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

21. (original): An oral composition comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1) defined in accordance with claim 1, and orally tolerable adjuvants.